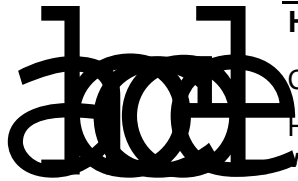


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Date	27 July 2004

Dear Gillian,

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY – SELECT COMMITTEE ON URBAN RENNAISSANCE AND SEEDA

Thank you for the opportunity to input into the select committee process and the copy of the SQW report outlining the issues. Whilst this authority does not wish to attend the select committee hearings, I would like to make the following comments to be added to the process.

This authority has had a positive relationship with SEEDA since its creation and has found its staff both professional and approachable. However, I would like to see much greater clarity on the responsibility of the agency especially in relation to other bodies such as English Partnerships and CABE.

There does seem to be a blurring of the roles between these organisations, with them active in the same policy and action areas. This has been pronounced in the growth debate emanating from the sustainable communities plan where both EP and SEEDA have been seemingly pursuing a similar agenda. The role that SEEDA had in the debate over the allocation of sustainable communities funding was also very unclear especially in relation to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Government Offices.

In terms of SEEDA's specific responsibility in the area of design, I again would seek further clarification on the expected role as the issue seems more appropriately covered by CABE and the individual work of local authorities.

I hope you find these comments useful.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Scate
Planning and Development Services Manager

